



State of Vermont
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Susanne Young, Secretary
Jason Broughton, State Librarian

TO: Statewide Library Trustee & Friends Conference Updates
FROM: Jason Broughton State Librarian / Commissioner of Libraries
DATE: September 21st, 2020
SUBJECT: Programmatic Updates on COVID19 Actions / Programs & Services

Programs, Services, and Guidance for libraries under COVID19:

- 1. Continued Promotion of the Mask On campaign (LIB):** As we move into the fall, there will be a pivot in the messaging that the Vermont Department of Health and state government in general will be sending about the pandemic. We will be focusing less on masks specifically and more on a holistic strategy of reducing harm, such as an emphasis on a “checklist” that Vermonters can use to help reduce their day-to-day risk.
- 2. OCLC, Battelle, and IMLS REALM Study:** The department continues to connect with various entities to ensure the information provided has context for libraries in a variety of pragmatic ways. Conversations have started nationally on addressing how to discuss the information with current library operations, state requirements, and health and wellness for staff and citizens. Details from the three entities are forthcoming but with no exact timeframe for this specific set of conversational updates.

Race, Gender, Class, and Society programming: The department continues to provide continuing education, resources, and conversations on how to approach community conversations.

- Website portals on race and racial impacts,
- Disparities working groups,
- AOE conversations on rural education services,
- Humanities programming on race, class, and democracy,
- Book sets for book clubs, and a host of other options to allow libraries to engage in conversations may allow greater understanding of our neighbors and visitors.

State of Vermont: Fiscal impacts to the department were a 3% reduction in budget, with ½ of reserve carryover funds extracted (\$83,000), continued hiring freeze (*impacts ABLE/Special Populations position*), Special session of the legislature for September, and **concerns about**



local impacts over the next two years for mental health & fiscal revenues are on the minds of many people.

Library Legislation (Future & Past)

Library Study & Examination of the Library Ecosystem S. 281, *Senator Ruth Hardy*
Recommendations for State Building and Facilities Naming Act 139.

Census

1. Current Vermont Census Self-Reporting Counts: <https://2020.mapvt.com/>. As of September 21st: Self-reporting rate 60.0%, Enumeration 38.3%, total Enumeration 98.3%
2. Census operations will end on September 30th.

Second round of CARES Act funding to Vermont Libraries from IMLS:

Here is what the Department of Libraries is planning to do with the remaining funding through the CARES Act tentatively for Vermont.

1. Technology infrastructure grants.
2. Products to mitigate the spread of COVID19 such as disinfectant, sanitizer, cleaners, gloves, and masks.
3. *The Department has requested funds from the state under the Cares Act Relief Fund to additional funding to assist libraries. This may or may not be appropriated based upon state needs, current COVID19 issues, and priorities.*
4. First round items to VT Libraries and partners – Grant to Green Mountain Library Consortium for eBooks, Vermont Historical Society for museum programming and technology, and over 100 Shield Guards and sanitizer.